
The community strength of Ban Klum Suai, Phawa Subdistrict, Kaeng Hang Maeo District, Chanthaburi Province

Khermkhan, J., Thongkaew, E. * and Chatanan, P.

Faculty of Agricultural Technology, King Mongkut's Institute of Technology Ladkrabang, Ladkrabang, Thailand.

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Abstract The assessment of community strengths in Ban Klum Suai concerned the following key dimensions of Economic Production and Consumption Indicators. The community demonstrated strength in basic production factors of 86.2% and activities promoting livelihoods aligned with community interests of 65.5%. Economic Activities in the Community revealed that the community established groups for income-generating activities was 62.1% and resource pooling and borrowing was 65.5%. Allocation of Economic Resources revealed that community members had widespread access to produce the resources of 68.9% and managed resources to meet community needs of 62.1%. Internal Relationships within Community Organizations revealed that community members actively participated in traditional activities of 93.1% and supported each other of 82.7%. Social Network of Community Organizations showed that continuous communication within the community was 86.2% and exchanges of learning and experiences with other communities was 72.4%. Preservation and Transmission of Local Culture and Learning revealed that local traditions were preserved through regular activities of 96.6%, and cultural activities contributed to community development of 86.2%. Learning and exchange in cultural and learning dimensions showed that community members played a role in conserving local traditions of 72.4%. Management of Natural Resources revealed that the community designated public spaces for conservation of 75.9%. Therefore, community leaders or relevant organizations should encourage community participation to enhance strengths in various dimensions and promote the overall resilience of Ban Klum Suai in the future.

Keywords: Community strength, Kaeng Hang Maeo, Chanthaburi

Introduction

Thailand has announced a 20-year national strategic plan (BE 2561 – 2580) in accordance with the 2017 Constitution of the Kingdom of Thailand, Article 65. This constitutional provision mandates the government to establish a national strategy as a sustainable development framework. The strategy is designed to guide the formulation of various plans that are coherent and integrated, in

* **Corresponding Author:** E. Thongkaew; **Email:** ekkapphon.th@kmitl.ac.th

alignment with the principle of good governance. Its overarching goal is led Thailand towards achieving the vision of a secure, prosperous, and sustainable Thailand through development guided by the principles of a self-sufficient economy within the specified timeframe. The strategy comprised six main components as security strategy, enhancing national security, competitive capability strategy, enhancing the ability to compete, human resource development and capacity building strategy, developing and strengthening human resources, opportunity and social equality strategy, creating opportunities and social equality, quality of life and environmentally friendly growth strategy as promoting quality of life while being environmentally conscious and balance adjustment and sustainable development of public sector management system strategy as aligning with the United Nations' Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) according to Office of the Council of State (2017) and United Nations Development Programme (2023). The SDGs, a post-2015 global development framework established by the United Nations, consist of 17 interconnected goals across economic, social, and environmental dimensions, aiming to promote resilience and sustainable development. (United Nations. (n.d.). Sustainable Development Goals, 2023).

The community of Ban Pwa in Kao Hang Maew District, Chanthaburi Province, Thailand, comprises 12 villages with a population of 10,690 people in 4,879 households. The area is covered approximately 574.264 square kilometers (358,915 acres), the region is characterized by hilly and elevated terrain. The community is surrounded by significant forests, including the Khao Cha-mao-Khao Wong National Park and other protected areas, which are vital resources for the local population. Despite the challenges posed by various projects, such as the construction of large reservoirs, the community was formed groups to learn how to utilize forest resources within legal constraints. These efforts found to reduce vulnerability and fostering sustainable grassroots agricultural networks to strengthen the local economy (Khermkhan *et al.*, 2022).

The study aimed to examine the resilience of the Ban Pwa community and its potential through collaborative activities with agricultural networks.

Materials and methods

Scope

Study area was the community of Ban Klum Suai, Phawa Subdistrict, Kaeng Hang Maeo District, Chanthaburi Province. Sample groups were network of 5 members from the agricultural community and 29 individuals from the community of Ban Kluay Tum Subdistrict, Amphoe Kaeng Hang Maeo,

Chanthaburi Province. Divided into 4 dimensions 1) Economic dimension 2) Social dimension 3) Cultural and learning dimension 4) Natural resource and environmental dimension (Kanchanasuvarna, 2010).

Methods

This research is divided into two parts as qualitative research involved conducting focus group discussions and engaging in participatory activities to gather opinions and insights, and quantitative research was carried out using survey questionnaires to assess the level of community resilience in the dimensions of economic, social, cultural and learning, as well as natural resource and environmental aspects of the community in Ban Klum Suai, Phawa Subdistrict, Kaeng Hang Maeo District, Chanthaburi Province.

Results

General overview of the Saoi Village Community

The general conditions and basic information of the Village Community are situated in the areas of Sub-district Pawaa, Amphoe Kaeng Hang Maeo, Chanthaburi Province. It is located about 25 kilometers east of Kaeng Hang Maeo District and approximately 67 kilometers from Chanthaburi Province. The area covers approximately 574.264 square kilometers (358,915 acres). The topography consists of hills, high slopes, intermediate plains, undulating plains, and high mountain areas, ranging from 300 to 1,670 meters above sea level. There are both gentle and windy hills. To the north of the sub-district, it borders on Tambon Khlong Takrao, Amphoe Tha Takiap, Chachoengsao Province. To the south (in Area 2 of Pawaa village), it is adjacent to Area 8 of Tambon Sam Pee Nong and Area 3 of Tambon Khao Wong Kot, Amphoe Kaeng Hang Maeo, Chanthaburi Province. To the east, it borders on Tambon Khun Chong, Amphoe Kaeng Hang Maeo, Chanthaburi Province, and to the west (in Area 3 of Nong Jampa Village), it is adjacent to Tambon Huai Thap Mon, Amphoe Khao Chamao, Rayong Province. The forest area in Area 2 of Pawaa Village covers a community forest of 459 rai, while in area 3 of Nong Jampa Village, there is a community forest of 23 rai and 3 ngan. Within Sub-district Pawaa, the total population is 10,745 people, consisting of 5,413 males and 5,332 females. In area 2 of Pawaa Village, the total population is 468 people, with 215 males and 253 females, accounting for 4.36% of the total population. In Area 3 of Nong Jampa Village, the total population is 1,198 people, with 595 males and 594 females, accounting for 11.07% of the total population. In the field of education, there was

a child development center under the jurisdiction of Tambon Phawa Municipality and the Tambon Phawa Sub-district Administrative Organization. These are located in the area of Zone 2, Ban Phawa. Ban Nernjampa School is situated in the area of Zone 3, Ban Nernjampa. Regarding public health, the Ban Nernjampa Sub-district Health Promotion Hospital is located in the vicinity of Zone 2, Ban Phawa. In the economic sector, agriculture plays a significant role in Zone 2, Ban Phawa. There were 186 households of rubber planters covering an area of 5,126.64 acres, with an average yield of 3 kilograms per acre. The average production cost was 45 Baht per acre, and the average selling price was 75 Baht per acre. Additionally, there were 4 households engaged in cultivating oil palm on 21 acres, producing an average yield of 3,500 kilograms per acre. The average production cost was 2,000 Baht per acre, and the average selling price was 5,400 Baht per acre. Moreover, there was a group of banana farmers with 1 household on 5 acres, yielding an average of 1,000 kilograms per acre. The average production cost was 5,000 Baht per acre, and the average selling price of the produce was 20,000 Baht per acre. In terms of tourism, both Zone 2, Ban Phawa, and Zone 3, Ban Nernjampa was conservation-based natural attractions and important sites. Some of these included Phutthawat Jampaphan Wivek in Zone 2, and Suan Pa Aranyaprathet and Wat Nernjampa in Zone 3. In the commercial and occupational groups, Zone 2 had various groups such as the village committee group, village savings group, pig raising group, women's volunteer group of Nong Makha Village, and the agroforestry network group. In Zone 3, there were groups as the village committee, security group, civilian volunteer disaster prevention group, and agriculture group. Traditions, culture, and local knowledge are preserved through annual traditional ceremonies that is taken place for three times a year, starting from the third month of the year, which began in the year 2003 and continues to the present. These activities focused on sharing knowledge, sharing local plant varieties, and sharing resources within the agricultural system. Additionally, they connected local youth from educational institutions to learn about local wisdom. Local products and souvenirs in Zone 2 included Duak Foo chili sauce, local plant varieties, and chemical fertilizers. In Zone 3, there were local products as Ban Nernjampa drinking water, spicy chili sauce, forest products, sun-dried fish, pesticide-free vegetables, and local plant saplings.

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The study identified four dimensions to assess the community's resilience. Dimension of social management and community/organization community,

when considering each item individually, the sample group did not participate in establishing community organizations and networks based on their interests with a total of 17 people which was 58.6%. On the other hand, there was participation in establishing community organizations and networks based on their interests, with a total of 12 people, which was 41.4%. In order, the sample group did not participate in determining the structure or management committee of the group, with a total of 17 people of 58.6%, and there was participation in determining the structure or management committee of the group with a total of 12 people of 41.4%. The majority of the sample group did not have a group with established rules and regulations for joint behavior with a total of 20 people of 69.0%, and there was a group with established rules and regulations for joint behavior, with a total of 9 people of 31.0%. In order, the sample group did not participate in continuous coordination, consultation, discussion, and joint activities with the community with a total of 15 people of 51.3%, and there was participation in continuous coordination, consultation, discussion, and joint activities with the community with a total of 14 people of 48.3%.

In the dimension of social relationships within the community organization, when considered individually, it is found that the majority of the sample group actively participated in community activities that involved in consultations and joint meetings among community members, with a total of 24 people of 83.8%. On the other hand, there was no participation in community activities that involved in consultations and joint meetings among community members, with a total of 5 people of 17.2%. The majority of the sample group actively engaged in activities that promoted relationships among community members through traditional community customs, with a total of 27 people of 93.1%. However, there was no participation in activities that promoted relationships among community members through traditional community customs, with a total of 2 people of 6.9%. The majority of the sample group also provided mutual support and care to fellow community members, with a total of 24 people of 82.8%, while there was no mutual support and provided to community members, with a total of 5 people of 17.2%. Finally, the majority of the sample group actively participated in problem-solving within the community, with a total of 21 people of 72.4%, while there was no participation in problem-solving within the community, with a total of 8 people of 27.6%.

In the dimension of social self-reliance through social/political means, it is found that the sample group participated in establishing the social rules and regulations of the community, with a total of 15 people of 51.7%. Conversely, there was no participation in establishing the social rules and regulations of the community, with a total of 14 people of 48.3%. In order, the sample group was capable of problem-solving using community processes, with a total of 17 people

of 58.6%, while there was no capability to solve problems using community processes, with a total of 12 people of 41.4%. Furthermore, the sample group improved and established suitable community regulations based on their experiences in community problem-solving, with a total of 16 people of 55.2%. Conversely, there was no improvement and establishment of suitable community regulations based on their experiences in community problem-solving, with a total of 13 people of 44.8% (Table 1).

Table 1. Social dimension analysis

Community Resilience Index	Number of People (n)		Percentage	
	Yes	No	Yes	No
1. Community Management / Organization				
1.1 You have participated in the establishment of community groups, organizations, and networks according to your interests	12	17	41.4	58.6
1.2 You have participated in defining the structure or management committees of these organizations	12	17	41.4	58.6
1.3 The groups you are a part of have established rules and regulations for collective behavior	9	20	31.0	69.0
1.4 You have been involved in coordinating, consulting, and conducting continuous activities with the community	14	15	48.3	51.7
2. Intra-Community Relationships				
2.1 You have participated in community activities involving consultations and joint meetings of community members	24	5	83.8	17.2
2.2 You have participated in organizing activities that promote relationships among community members through community traditions	27	2	93.1	6.9
2.3 You have engaged in mutual care and support with community members (being compassionate, helpful, and sharing)	24	5	82.8	17.2
2.4 You have participated in problem-solving within the community	21	8	72.4	27.6
3. Community Organization Networks				
3.1 You have maintained continuous communication within the community	25	4	86.2	13.8
3.2 You have exchanged learning experiences with other communities	21	8	72.4	27.6
3.3 You have participated in collaborative decision-making in community development planning	13	16	44.8	55.2
3.4 You have coordinated and collaborated with external organizations	15	14	51.7	48.3

Community Resilience Index	Number of People (n)		Percentage	
	Yes	No	Yes	No
4. Self-Reliance through Social and Political				
4.1 You have participated in establishing social rules and regulations for the community	15	14	51.7	48.3
4.2 You are capable of solving problems using community processes such as mediation, reconciliation, and organizing joint activities	17	12	58.6	41.4
4.3 You have improved and established community problem-solving experiences as appropriate regulations for the community	16	12	55.2	44.8

Cultural dimensions and learning found that in the cultural dimensions and learning within the community had a conservation and transmission of local culture. It is found that the majority of the sample group participated in local traditional activities, with a total of 28 people of 96.6%, and there was no participation in local traditional activities by one person with accounting for 3.4%. The majority of the sample group engaged in activities/culture/traditions that contributed to community development in other dimensions, with 25 people of 86.2%. There was no engagement in activities/culture/traditions contributing to community development in other dimensions by 4 people of 13.8%.

The majority of the sample group transformed cultural knowledge and local wisdom into products and services for the community, with 19 people of 65.5%, and did not transform cultural knowledge and local wisdom into products and services for the community, with 10 people of 34.5%. The cultural dimensions and learning in terms of learning and knowledge exchange found that the sample group participated in activities for exchanging local knowledge and wisdom within the community, with 17 people of 58.6%, and it was not participated in activities for exchanging local knowledge and wisdom within the community, with 12 people of 41.4%.

The majority of the sample group had the ability to apply local knowledge and wisdom to their daily lives, with 18 people of 62.1%, while 11 people with accounting for 37.9% did not apply local knowledge and wisdom to their daily lives. In terms of conserving and preserving local traditions, the majority of the sample group played a role with 21 people of 72.4%, while 8 people with accounting for 27.4% did not have a role in conserving and preserving local traditions. Furthermore, the sample group of disseminated the culture and learning of the community to others, with 16 people 55.2%, while 13 people with accounting for 44.8% did not disseminated the culture and learning of the community to others (Table 2).

Table 2. Cultural dimensions and learning analysis

Community Resilience Index	Number of People (n)		Percentage	
	Yes	No	Yes	No
1. Community Preservation and Local Cultural Heritage				
1.1 Community Preservation and Local Cultural Heritage	28	1	96.6	3.4
1.2 The community hosts activities, culture, or traditions that contribute to community development in various dimensions, such as welcoming guests, community fund management, etc.	25	4	86.2	13.8
1.3 The community transforms local cultural and traditional knowledge into community products and services	10	19	65.5	34.5
2. Learning and Exchange				
2.1 You have participated in knowledge and local wisdom exchange activities within the community	17	12	58.6	41.4
2.2 You have the ability to apply local knowledge and wisdom in daily life	18	11	62.4	37.9
2.3 You play a role in preserving and passing down local traditions	21	8	72.4	27.6
2.4 You have shared the culture and learning of community members with other communities	16	13	55.2	44.8

Natural resources and environmental dimensions found that in the natural resources and environmental dimensions related to the use of natural resources and the environment. The majority of the sample group participated in the management and benefits from the use of natural resources. There were 22 people accounting for 75.9% who participated and 7 people with accounting for 24.1% who did not participate in the management and benefits from the use of natural resources. The majority of the sample group accessed natural resources in accordance with community rules and regulations. There were 19 people accounting for 65.5% who accessed and 10 people with accounting for 34.5% who did not access the natural resources according to community rules and regulations. Within the community of the sample group, there was a system for managing natural resource management, with common rules and regulations, with 15 people of 51.7%, and there was no system for managing natural resource management with common rules and regulations with 10 people of 48.3%.

The dimension of natural resources and environmental conservation found that the majority of the sample group's community which ceremonies related to the conservation of natural resources. There were 25 people accounting for 86.2% who had such ceremonies and 4 people of 13.8% who did not have ceremonies related to the conservation of natural resources. The sample group actively participated in the conservation of natural resources with 27 people of 93.1%,

and did not participate in the conservation of natural resources with 2 people of 6.9%. The majority of the sample group did not engage in occupations without impacting natural resources with 23 people of 79.3%, and engaged in occupations without impacting natural resources with 6 people of 20.7%.

The dimension of natural resource management found that the community was a system for managing natural resources. There were 16 people of 55.2%, who had such a system, and there was no system for managing natural resources with 13 people of 44.8%. In the community, there were no regulations regarding the use of natural resources and the environment with 15 people of 51.7%, and there were regulations regarding the use of natural resources and the environment with 14 people of 48.3%. The community of the majority of the sample group was designated a common public area for conservation with 22 people of 75.9%, and there was no designated in common public area for conservation with 7 people of 24.1% (Table 3).

Table 3. The analysis of natural resources and environmental dimensions

Community Resilience Index	Number of People (n)		Percentage	
	Yes	No	Yes	No
1. Natural Resource and Environmental Management				
1.1 You have participated in managing and benefiting from natural resources	22	7	75.9	24.1
1.2 You have appropriate access to natural resources following community rules and regulations	19	10	65.5	34.5
1.3 Within the community, there is a system for managing natural resources with jointly established rules and regulations	15	14	51.7	48.3
2. Conservation of Natural Resources and the Environment				
2.1 The community organizes traditions related to the conservation of natural resources	25	4	86.2	13.8
2.2 You have participated in the conservation of natural resources, such as forest ordination	27	2	93.1	6.9
2.3 You can earn a livelihood without negatively impacting natural resources	6	23	20.7	79.3
3. Natural Resource Management				
3.1 The community has established a system for managing resources, such as a community forest committee	16	13	55.5	44.8
3.2 The community has regulations regarding the use of natural resources and the environment	14	15	48.3	51.7
3.3 The community has designated public shared areas for conservation, such as community forests and public utility areas	22	7	75.9	24.1

Discussion

Community organization and networks revealed 58.6% of the sample group did not participate in establishing community organizations and networks based on their interests. 41.4% of the sample group participated in establishing community organizations and networks. 69.0% did not have a group with established rules and regulations for joint behavior. 31.0% had a group with established rules and regulations. 51.3% did not participate in continuous coordination, consultation, discussion, and joint activities with the community. 48.3% participated in continuous coordination, consultation, discussion, and joint activities with the community. Social relationships within the community organization revealed 83.8% actively participated in community activities that involved consultations and joint meetings among community members. 17.2% did not participate in such activities. 93.1% actively engaged in activities that promoted relationships among community members through traditional customs. 6.9% did not participate in such activities. 82.8% provided mutual support and cared to community members. 17.2% did not provide mutual support and care. 72.4% actively participated in problem-solving within the community. 27.6% did not participate in problem-solving. Social self-reliance through social/political means revealed that 51.7% participated in establishing social rules and regulations of the community. 48.3% did not participate in establishing social rules and regulations. 58.6% was capable of problem-solving using community processes. 41.4% did not capable of problem-solving using community processes. 55.2% improved and established suitable community regulations based on their experiences in community problem-solving. 44.8% was not improved or established such regulations. The data revealed that the mixed levels of community engagement and self-reliance within the sample group. While a significant portion was not actively involved in establishing community organizations, there was a substantial presence in activities promoting social relationships and problem-solving within the community. According to Wongsrikaew *et al.* (2016) reported that development of strong community in a case study of Poonbumphen community, Phasi Charoen District, Bangkok showed that characteristics of a strong community were able to be self-reliant, the security of community, the vision of community and the love for community. The factors that promoted a strong community were closed to social relations, learning to improve people's lives in the community, networking of community, natural leader, and the self-reliance economy. The ability to establish social rules and regulations improved community regulations which varied among the group. These findings suggested that there was a room for enhancing community participation and self-reliance among the sample group. Strategies to increase

involvement in establishing community organizations and improving community regulations may help foster a stronger sense of community engagement and empowerment. Additionally, building on the active participation in community activities that promoted social relationships and problem-solving can further strengthen the community's cohesion and effectiveness. According to Fonchingong and Fonjong (2002) stated that the concept of self-reliance in community development among the grassroots people of Cameroon community development emphasized the active participation of the people in self-sustenance and improvement of their living conditions. In terms of cultural preservation Data indicates strong participation within the community. The overwhelming majority of people participate in traditional activities and contribute to community development through cultural practices. In addition, an important part is transferring cultural knowledge to benefit the community in a tangible way. However, there are still areas that need to be improved, especially in bridging the gap between the acquisition of cultural knowledge and its application in everyday life. Although most people play a role in preserving traditions, but increased participation may help increase cultural sustainability. According to Tumlangka (2013) conducted to explore the model of enhancing community resilience using local wisdom as a foundation in Chiang Rai province. It was found that there are significant factors influencing community resilience. These key factors included community learning processes, networking systems, community relationship systems, and local wisdom. In the development of the model for enhancing community resilience using local wisdom as a foundation, these various factors were utilized to define the framework for community resilience enhancement and indicators for measuring community resilience. The importance of knowledge exchange and dissemination of local wisdom Efforts to promote learning and community networks are critical to preserving cultural heritage. These efforts are consistent with research that emphasizes the role of social capital in promoting sustainable, community-based economies. In the field of natural resource management, there is an integrated landscape. Although most are involved in resource management. But a significant minority does not engage in such activities. Compliance with community rules for accessing resources remains a concern for some. On the positive side, communities demonstrate their commitment to environmental conservation through rituals and active participation in conservation efforts. However, challenges remain. exists Especially in occupations that do not affect natural resources and need to improve natural resource management systems and establish clear regulations. Cooperation between government agencies, private organizations and local governments is critical to effective resource management and conflict resolution. Addressing these challenges requires concerted efforts to maximize the utility of

limited resources. At the same time, reducing the impact on the environment to a minimum, according to Khatasombun (2022) studied social capital and model community development to create a sustainable economic community of Huai Kaew Subdistrict, Bueng Narang District, Phichit Province. Results Research found that social capital is important for the development of a model community to create a sustainable community economy of Huai Kaew Subdistrict. Bueng Narang District Phichit Province includes human capital, social capital, natural capital, financial capital, and cultural capital. In summary, these findings highlight the link between cultural preservation and Sustainable resource management and community resilience efforts to bridge the gap in knowledge application promote community participation and create a strong resource management system. It is considered important for promoting sustainability. Should be promoting a deeper understanding of cultural heritage and implementing effective natural resource management strategies. Communities can achieve greater resilience and prosperity and serves for future efforts to bolster community resilience and enhance the role of local networks in promoting economic well-being. while protecting their rich heritage for future generations.

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